



Small Communities Initiative

Local Government Division

[Without assistance from SCI] “we would not have a planning commission, we would not have put on presentations to our community about our water and sewer systems and we would not be having the types of open discussion, brain storming sessions where good ideas and solutions to problems are identified.”

-McCleary City Administrator
Brian Shay

Overview

In 1999 the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED), and Departments of Health and Ecology, building on successes of the past, began formally collaborating to assist small, rural communities that are simultaneously struggling with economic viability and compliance with health and environmental regulations. An interagency Memorandum of Understanding defines each agency’s commitment to the Small Communities Initiative (SCI).

The SCI is more an approach than a program. The approach includes regulatory flexibility, emphasizes on-going partnerships, and recognizes multiple community priorities. The goal of this interagency effort is to establish excellent working relationships between communities and regulators, promote compliance with environmental and public health requirements, and support the economic vitality of Washington’s small communities.

For More Information

Cathi Read, CTED
Program Manager
360-725-3016
Cathir@cted.wa.gov

Steering Committee contacts:

Steven K. Washington, CTED
Community Development Programs
360-725-3005

Christina Gagnon, Dept. of Health
Division of Drinking Water
360-236-3095

Garin Schrieve, Dept. of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
360-407-6272

Available Assistance

In the selected communities, agency staff act as facilitators, technical advisors, and resource brokers to help local elected officials, local staff, and citizens define, prioritize, and identify links between public health, environmental protection, and local development issues. Once everyone understands all of the issues the community is facing, realistic steps leading to regulatory compliance, long-term community sustainability, and economic vitality are identified and documented in a community action plan. Staff then assist the community with implementing the action plan.

Eligibility Guidelines

Small, rural communities that are simultaneously struggling with economic viability and compliance with health and environmental regulations are nominated by staff from the participating agencies. An interagency steering committee makes the final selections.